(a) whether Government are aware that there was an urgent need to institute a basic survey of the elementary stage of the school system to find out the shortcomings of the system; and

(b) if so, by when such a survey would be instituted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.D.ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) The 7th All India School Education Survey, being conducted by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), aims at collecting comprehensive data on census basis on every facet of school education in the country with date of reference as September 30,2002. The survey is in its last stage of completion.

Plagiarism in Universities

4090. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that plagiarism has become a routine in Universities; and

(b) if so, what measures would be taken to eradicate this menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) No, Sir. As per information provided by the UGC, such is not the case.

(b) Does not arise.

Scrapping of school examinations

4091. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to secure a consensus of the academic agencies for scrapping school examinations altogether and replace the same with internally administered weekly to monthly tests;

(b) whether the proposed in-house assessment of the student's skill at the school level would tend to be lax, devoid of scrupulous assessment and valuation of students' skills by an outside examiner/valuer; and